

# Atwood Primary School

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**Newsletter 20/09**

20 October 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

## **WOW – Legoland!**

As members of the *Walk Once a Week* campaign, all staff and pupils qualify to receive money-off vouchers for adults and children to LEGOLAND Windsor. The voucher that you print off seems to be valid only from Monday to Thursday next week (half-term) and the price for adults is £19.50 and children £16.95 (normally £33.30 and £25.20 respectively). Go to [www.legoland.co.uk/wow](http://www.legoland.co.uk/wow)

## **Three-Form Entry**

Representatives from the Local Authority (LA) spoke to governors last week regarding the possible consultation on three-form entry. The officers felt that, at the current time, it would not be wise to pursue a move to expand. They predict a fall in demand for Reception places in 2010 and, although the numbers pick up from 2011, there is further capacity at other schools in this part of Croydon that could be filled first. We are therefore now able to progress with our plans for the Children's Centre and the additional classroom without wondering how the site might be developed.

## **Disco Reminder**

Just a reminder that payment for Thursday's disco for Y1 – Y6 must be made on ParentPay by Wednesday. Lists are printed from the computer early on Thursday morning and we will not accept late payment or children arriving at the disco who are not on the list. If you are not sure whether you have paid, you can always look on the 'My Accounts' section on your ParentPay account, change the date range to the whole of October, and see if you have made a credit for the disco.

## **Half-Term**

Next week is our half-term holiday and children should not be at school. There are no staff training days until January, so children should be back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **Gate Checks**

Carla Coombs, our Education Welfare Officer (EWO), was at the school gate on Monday morning to do a spot check on latecomers. This will continue as we are tackling the problem of children arriving late to school.

All children from Y1 to Y6 should not be on the premises until 8.30am (unless in breakfast club). The children enter the school building at 8.40am (earlier if it is raining) and should



be in their classrooms ready to learn at 8.45am. This is the point at which the register is taken. Any child not in the classroom at that point is recorded as absent. If they then arrive, the mark is recorded as 'late before register closed'. If the child arrives after 9.15am it is recorded as 'late after register closed' and is an unauthorised mark.

Reception children enter the classroom at 8.45am, and Nursery at 8.50am or 12.30pm.

## **School Governors**

You will be aware of the vacancies we were attempting to fill on our governing body. I am pleased to report that we now have a full complement of governors. I would, at this stage, also like to thank the governors whose terms of office finish this term. Mandy Lawrence, David Rowlanes, Sue Thomas and Andrew Thomson have all been valuable members of the governing body and it has been good working with them. Mandy and Sue have now finished, and David and Andrew complete their terms in November and December respectively.

We welcome Mark Ferry and Lisa Cruickshank (November) as Parent Governors, Susanne Baccici, Surendra Patel and Alison Shewell as Partnership Governors, and Rev Joanna Thornton in December as a Community Governor.

## **ICT**

You may be aware from our website that some exciting new opportunities are now available to our pupils. Every child in the school has a Universal Sign On (USO) which is a username and password that is synchronised and enables them to log on to our network when at school, access their email, and use web-based systems such as Fronter (our Managed Learning Environment) and Mathletics. This will affect mostly Y1 – Y6 children and is being introduced carefully across the school. If your child knows their USO it is because it has been introduced by their teacher. Over the next few months the children will be shown how to use the various systems. Our Y6 children are enthusiastic about Mathletics, and Atwood is now in the top 50 UK schools (it's a bit of a competition!).

Don't worry if you are unaware of any of this yet. During the year, as it is rolled out, the children will become more familiar with it. Ms Lamont will also be running some evening meetings for parents to show you what it is all about.

I would like to make a point about the USO. It is a powerful login for all the systems. As such, the password should not be available to other children. There is the potential for some cyber-bullying if children use another person's account, so please respect this and encourage your child to look after their accounts. This is a good teaching point for the real world!

Yours faithfully

**Mr A Clark**  
**Head Teacher**